AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Process for producing enantiopure β-amino acid derivatives corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which

R1 and R2 independently denote organic residues optionally forming a cyclic substituent,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group,

comprising a step in which a mixture of enantiomers of a compound corresponding to general formula (II)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR4 (II)

in which

R1, R2 and Z are as defined for formula (I), and

R4 is an organic residue,

is subjected to hydrolysis in the presence of a lipase.

2. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH~~, said ring preferably comprising from 4 to 8 atoms, more particularly from 5 to 7 atoms~~.

3. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 2, in which the heterocycle comprises at least one additional hetero atom ~~preferably chosen from N, O and S~~.

4. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group~~, in particular an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group or an aralkoxycarbonyl group~~.

5. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, in which the substituent R4 in the compound of general formula (II) is a methyl or ethyl group.

6. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, in which the lipase is Pseudomonas cepacia lipase.

7. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, in which the hydrolysis is carried out at a temperature of 0° to 50°C and a pH of 6 to 8.

8. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, in which the amount of lipase used is 10 to 100 mg/mmol of compound of formula (II).

9. (Currently amended) Process for producing a peptide or a peptide analogue, according to which

(a) an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative is produced according to the process of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1;

(b) the enantiopure β-amino acid derivative obtained is used to produce the peptide or the peptide analogue.

10. (Original) Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which the substituents R1 and R2 form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said heterocycle comprising at least one additional hetero atom,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group.

11. (Currently amended) Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to Claim 10, in which the heterocycle comprises from 5 to 7 atoms and the additional hetero atom is chosen from N, O, and S.

12. (Currently amended) Peptide or petide analogue which can be obtained using, in the process for producing it, an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~.

13. (New) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said ring comprising from 4 to 8 atoms.

14. (New) Process according to Claim 13, wherein said ring comprising from 5 to 7 atoms.

15. (New) Process according to Claim 2, wherein said hetero atom is N, O or S.

16. (New) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group which is an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group or an aralkoxycarbonyl group.